

Application No. 10/717,131

Reply to Office Action

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 1-24, with the following paragraph:

The method for making EVOH containing these components is not particularly limited and any known method can be used. For example, a) a method comprising bringing porous precipitates of EVOH having a water content of 20-80 wt% in contact with an aqueous solution of the above-mentioned component to allow the solution to contain the above-mentioned components and then drying the solution, a) b) a method comprising allowing a uniform solution (water/alcohol solution etc.) of EVOH to contain the above-mentioned components, extruding the resulting mixture into a solidifying liquid in strands, cutting the obtained strands to give pellets and then drying the pellets, c) a method comprising mixing EVOH and the above-mentioned components at once, and melt kneading the mixture in an extruder and the like, d) a method comprising neutralizing alkali (sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide etc.), which was used in the saponification step, with acids such as acetic acid and the like during production of EVOH, and controlling the amount of residual acids such as acetic acid and the like and by-produced alkali metal salts such as sodium acetate, potassium acetate and the like by a washing treatment with water and the like, and the like can be mentioned. For a remarkable effect to be achieved, the methods of a), b) and d) are preferable, which are superior in dispersibility of acids and metal salts thereof.

Replace the paragraph at page 21, lines 14-25, with the following paragraph:

In the present invention, moreover, when the content of EVOH in the ground product (collected material) is 0.1-30 wt% (further 0.3-25 wt%, particularly 0.5-20 wt%), the effect of the present invention preferably becomes particularly superior. When the EVOH content is less than 0.1 wt%, problems of degraded long-run formability and occurrence of foreign substance (die build-up) due to phase separation during melt forming of ground laminate product, and delamination between layers and lower mechanical property of the obtained formed product may not occur, thereby obliterating the necessity of improvement, whereas when it exceeds 30 wt%, the effect of the present invention may be unpreferably difficult to achieve.

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Replace the paragraph at page 28, line 31, through page 29, line 7, with the following paragraph:

(+) (4) surface smoothness

The regrind layer of the multilayer sheet surface was visually observed and evaluated according to the following criteria.

○ ... line, wavy pattern or lower transparency is hardly observed

△ ... line, wavy pattern or lower transparency is somewhat observed

× ... line, wavy pattern or lower transparency is markedly observed

Replace the paragraph at page 29, lines 8-17, with the following paragraph:

(2) (5) fish eye

The number of fish eyes having a diameter of not less than 0.4 mm, which were produced in the regrind layer (per 100 cm²) was counted from the surface of a multilayer sheet, and evaluated according to the following criteria. The number was counted at 5 points on the multilayer sheet and average was calculated.

○ ... less than 2

△ ... 2-4

× ... 5 or more